



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

# ORIGIN AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTIES OF DOWN AND ANTRIM.

(Continued from page 129.)

## IX.—ENGLISH SETTLEMENTS IN ANTRIM AND DOWN.

SIR Arthur Chichester, before he became Lord Deputy, had rendered good military service in the north of Ireland; he had taken the strong fort of Innisloughlin<sup>a</sup> in Kilwarlin, with all the treasures of the rebels deposited in it, and he had driven Bryan Mac Art from Killultagh. While his services and influence entitled him to consideration, therefore, his official connexion with these two counties<sup>b</sup> enabled him to choose land in situations which promised a rapid improvement. The natural position of Carrickfergus, and its relative magnitude and importance, pointed it out as a species of centre; and this accordingly was his first position. His castle of Joymount was situated near the town, while his grants lay north, west, and south, in the baronies of Carrickfergus, Upper and Lower Belfast, and Castlereagh. The districts enumerated extend from Islandmagee to Belfast, and thence up the valley of the Lagan, including the modern Falls, Carnmoney, Shankill, Ballynafeigh, &c., then included in the manors of Mountjoy and Belfast. The principal portions of these were "planted" with Englishmen, especially in the towns of Carrickfergus and Belfast; but the rural districts, and the towns after 1691, contained a considerable number of Scotch. Of course, these were merely a part of the extensive grants made to Sir Arthur and his family throughout Ulster; but with his possessions in Donegall and elsewhere the present sketch has nothing to do.

While the men of English birth who had sought homes in the new country still survived, and while the plantation scheme was in full progress, an English tourist passed from Carrickfergus, through Belfast, Lisburn, Dromore, and Newry, on his way to Dublin. Occasional extracts from his manuscript account have been published since the beginning of the present century, but under an erroneous name; and it is only recently that it has been printed entire. From the light which his remarks throw upon this part of the country, it is necessary to introduce him formally, and it is desirable to quote fully. Sir William Brereton, of Handford in Cheshire, was a distinguished Parliamentary ge-

<sup>a</sup> Near the modern "Spencer's Bridge," across the Lagan, north of Moira.

<sup>b</sup> As Colonel and Governor of the Forces stationed at

"Carrickfergus, both the Clandeboyas, the Duffrairie, Killultagh, Kilwarling, the Little Ards, the Route, and the Glynnies."

neral; he was born in 1604, a baronetcy was conferred upon him in 1626, which became extinct in 1678, and he died in 1661. In the year 1634, he travelled in Holland, and in 1635 in Scotland and Ireland. His manuscript refers to both years, and from internal evidence, appears to have been written out from brief notes taken on the spot. It was printed in 1844, by the Chetham Society, Manchester, as its first volume; Mr. E. Hawkins, F.R.S. &c., of the British Museum, contributing some valuable notes as editor. The spelling has been modernised, in the printed copy except in the names of places; it is here restored.<sup>c</sup>

On Sunday morning, July 5th, 1635, Sir William landed at Islandmagee, from "the Port Patrick," and was hospitably entertained at a large farm house belonging to a respectable Scotchman.

"Hence wee went to Carck-Fergus, corruptly called Knock-Fergus, wch is 4 miles: & came thither about ii hours. Tooke uppe o<sup>r</sup> In<sup>n</sup> in Mrs. Wharton's house, who is a Chester Woe-man, a neate Woe-man in hir House; good lodging & vsage, 6d. ord. 4d a night hay & oates, 6d peck provend<sup>r</sup>. This Towne, soe called from one Fergus, who built the Castle, & from Carick, wch in Irish signifies a Roocke; & indeed the Towne may well take his Denomination from the Castle wch is seated uppon a Roocke & commandes both Towne & Haven. All-most all the houses in this Towne were built Castle-wise, soe as though the Irish made spoile of & burnt the Towne, yett were they p<sup>r</sup>served unburnt. This is butt a preattie little Towne wth in the walls of a verye small extent and capacitie: the onely grace of this Towne is the Lord Chichester's House, wch is a verye State-lye House, or rather like a Prince's Pallace, where-vnto there belongs a stately Gate-house, & graceful Terrace & walke before the House, as is att Denton, my Lord Faire-fax-house.<sup>d</sup> A verye faire Hall there is, & a stately Staire-case, & faire dincing Roome carrying the proportion of the Hall: Fine Garden, & mightye Spacious Orchards, & they say they beare good store of Fruite. I observed on either side of his Garden, there is a Dove-house placed one opposite to the other in the Corner of the Garden, & twixt the Garden & the Orchards; a most convenient Place for Apricookes or some such tender Fruite to bee planted ag<sup>t</sup> the Dove house wall, that by the advantage of the heate there of they may be rendred more fruit-full, & come sooner to maturitie, butt this use is nott made thereof. Verye Rich Furniture belongs vnto this House, wch seemes much to bee neglected, & begins to go some-thing to decay. It is a most stately Building, onely the Windowes & Roomes & whole Frame of the House is over-large & vast; & in this House may you observe the Incon-

<sup>c</sup> The pedigree of the volume is as follows. In 1791, it was purchased at an auction by General Vallancey, and by him it was lent to Bishop Percy, through whom the extracts were obtained that have been printed at different times. From numerous allusions, it was clear that the writer was a native of Handford, and, supposing him to be of the family of Egerton, the Bishop wrote a remark to that effect inside the cover. This has misled Dubourdieu, Monck Mason and others. From Vallancey it came into the possession of Mr. J. Cooper Walker, who, previous to his death in 1813, was secretary to the Royal Irish Academy. His sister sold it to Mr. Christopher Bentham of Liver-

pool, by whom it was presented to its present owner, Sir Philip Grey Egerton, Bart., M.P. of Oulton Park, Tarporley. About the year 1827, it was seen by Sir Walter Scott, who offered his services as editor; and the Camden Society subsequently declined to issue it as one of their publications. Sir Philip, with his usual kindness, has forwarded to me the original; from which these extracts are made. The book is a foolscap folio of sixty leaves, with five or six blank pages. It is roughly bound in parchment.

<sup>d</sup> This is one of the local allusions.

venience of great Buildings, wch require an unreasonable chardg to keep them in Repaire, soe they are a Burthen to the Owners of them.

There is maintained in this Towne 2 Companies of Souldiers, the one a Troupe of Horse the other of Foote, consisting of 50 in either Company, undr the Commaund of my Lord of Chichester's eldest son. The Troupe of horse were lately sent to attend my Lord Deputie, in his Progress, verye compleately furnished, well horsed & in Red Coates all suiteable. This Towne of Carick-Fergus is governed by a Maieur, Sheriffe, & Aldermen, endowed wth great priuiledges, & is the Shire-Towne. Itt is reported of this Towne that they have been all-waies loyall & faith-full to the State of Engl. This is seated vpon a Locke wch comes from the Sea, & is navigable wth the tide for small Vessels, to the Key.

This Locke runnes all along to Bell-fast, wch is 8 mile from Carick-Fergus, & is thither all-soe navigable. It is about 3 or 4 miles broade, well furnished wth Fish, & all-soe wth Fowle in Winter. Here vpon that Part of this Locke next to Bell-fast, I observed a Convenient seat. From Carick-Fergus to Bell-fast you ride all vpon the Locke-side; itt is most basse way, & deepe in winter & wett weather, though now itt is hard & drie.

At Bell-fast my L: Chichester hath another daintie House,\* (wch is indeed the Glorie & Beautye of that Towne all-soe,) where hee is most resident, & is now building an outter Brick Wall before his Gates. This is nott soe large & vast as the other, butt more convenient & commodious; the verye end of the Locke toucheth vpon his Garden and Backside. Here all-soe are daintye Orchards, Gardens, & Walks planted."

The importance of the family of Chichester may serve as an excuse for a few additional remarks, before we pass on up the valley of the Lagan. Sir Arthur was created Baron Chichester of Belfast, but left no surviving issue; his honours were renewed, however, and his estates continued in the family of his brother. The numerous titles of the family correspond with the extent of their possessions. The Marquis of Donegall is a peer of Ireland, Great Britain, and the United Kingdom, taking titles from Carrickfergus and Belfast in these counties. The Lords Templemore represent another branch of the family; a third branch possessed a Baronetey now extinct; and the lineage of Chichester promises to occupy the place of one of the most ancient and distinguished native families in Ireland.

The property of the present Marquis of Hertford comprises the two territories or "manors" of Killultagh and Derryvolga, and includes either the whole or the greatest portion of eleven<sup>†</sup> distinct parishes. The most northern of these are Camlin and Tullyrusk, but those first reached in the line which the settlers of the Plantation followed, are Lambeg and Derriaghy. Both of these, the former especially, are

---

\* This was the Castle from which Castle-Street, Castle-Lane, and Castle Place are named. It was accidentally burned, April 24, 1708, when three daughters of the third Earl of Donegall were destroyed with it.

<sup>†</sup> Lambeg, Derriaghy, Blaris, Ballinderry, Magheragall, Glenavy Camlin and Tullyrusk, Aghalee Aghagallon, and Magheramesk.

wholly English in their character; and it is probable that they were settled by Sir Fulke Conway at the same time as Lisnegarvy. The current statements respecting him are very incorrect, people being misled by his name. His family had been resident at Bodrythan in Flintshire, and no doubt derived their name from the town of Conway. His father and grandfather were distinguished soldiers, and the former was Governor of Ostend in 1586; but there is not the slightest evidence that "the town of Conway was the property of Sir Fulke."<sup>s</sup> The assertion is equally gratuitous that the first settlers in Lisnegarvy were Welsh; for the names of the first British settlers (fifty-two in number) are still preserved, and the list comprises only four Welsh names. These are Morgan, Edwards, Ap Richard<sup>b</sup> and Ap Hugh.<sup>i</sup>

The maternal grandfather of Sir Fulke Conway was Sir Fulke Greville, descended from "the flower of Woolstaplers," and ancestor of the earls of Brooke and Warwick. Lady Greville, who possessed large estates in Warwickshire, was doubly an heiress, representing both Lord Brooke and Lord Beauchamp of Powyk. Connected as the family was, therefore, with the County of Warwick, both by relationship and occasional visits, it is not surprising that Sir Fulke's father purchased the manor of Ragley there, in the close of Queen Elizabeth's reign. When Ireland became the land of adventure and promise, and the Conway family became interested in it, the tenantry and other inhabitants of both properties sought a settlement in that country: but they came almost exclusively from Ragley, and no doubt sailed from Bristol. When Sir Edward succeeded to the representation of the family, he continued to prosecute the designs of Sir Fulke; and the important position which he occupied in public affairs, afforded him opportunities of doing so with success.—In 1622 he succeeded Sir Robert Naunton as one of the Secretaries of State; and about a year before the death of James I. was created Baron Conway of Ragley. On the accession of Charles I, he was re-appointed Secretary of State, and continued so till 1630; but in the meanwhile he had been elevated to a higher grade of the English peerage, as Viscount Conway of Conway Castle, and also to the Irish peerage as Viscount Killultagh. The manor of Ragley is situated on the right bank of the classic Avon, where the shires of Gloucester and Worcester join that of Warwick; and hence it is highly probable that the additional men required to plant the new districts, extending finally to Lough Neagh, came from those counties also. Lady Conway was a native of Gloucestershire, and the second Viscountess came from Somerset. The tradition of the people is, too, that their fathers came from "the apple counties" of England; and some of them can even name the offices which their ancestors of English birth held, under the first and second Lords Conway.

Edward, the second Viscount, also extended the plans of Sir Fulke, and was vigorously engaged with them during the brief visit of Sir William Brereton. "From Belfast to Linsley Garven," says that writer, "is about 7 mile, & is a Paradise in comparison of any part of Scotland. Linsley Garven is well seated, butt neither the Towne nor the Countrie thereabouts well planted. This

<sup>s</sup> Heterogenea, by J. M. Johnson, Esq., p. 94.

<sup>b</sup> <sup>i</sup> Popularly altered to Pritchard and Hughes.

Towne belongs to my L. Conoway, who hath there a good handsome House, butt farr short of both my Lo: Chich. Houses, & this House is seated vpon an Hill, vpon the side whereof is planted a Garden & Orchard, & att the Bottome of wch Hill runnes a pleasaunt River wch abounds wth Salmon. Here-aboutes, my Lord Conoway is now endeavoureing a Plantation; though the Land here-aboutes bee the poorest & barrenest I have yett seen, yett may itt bee made good Land wth labour & chardge." The "house" which the writer mentions was afterwards called the Castle of Lisburn; and it is probable that it was improved and strengthened after the disasters of 1641, for it is spoken of as a building of strength and respectability in 1707, when it was accidentally burned along with the town.

About the middle of the Protectorate, another Edward Conway succeeded as the third Viscount. He was the fourth individual, and the third generation of his family that had been connected with Killultagh; and passing beyond Lisburn he selected for his residence a point of extreme beauty, at the opposite extremity of his possessions. On the eastern bank of the little lake of Portmore, an ancient castle of the O'Neills occupied a gentle elevation. To the west, the situation commanded a view of all the lake below, and the greater part of Lough Neagh; to the north and east, the eye rested for miles on the beautiful lands of Glenavy and Ballinderry, with the tower of Ram's Island rising from a curve of the lake; and to the south, across the bogs of Aghagallon, appeared the county Armagh. This spot, which is held in great veneration by the rustic inhabitants, will surely be not less interesting to the more intelligent; for here the learned, pious, and accomplished Jeremy Taylor resided, who taught mankind both how to live and how to die. On a little island in the smaller lake, now known as the Sally Isle, was an arbour erected by his patron Lord Conway; this was the favourite scene of his studies, and there he put the finishing hand to his *Ductor Dubitantium*. At the restoration, as is well known, he became Bishop of Down and Connor, and in 1661 Bishop of Dromore also.

In 1664, the castle of Portmore was rebuilt on a scale of great magnificence; and here Lord Conway, now an Earl, continued to dispense his generous hospitalities for nearly twenty years. The splendour of the castle may be inferred from the quality of the outbuildings; and the provisions which were made are a commentary on the condition of society at the period. The stables constituted a sort of cavalry barracks, with the most ample accommodation for two troops of horse. They were 140 feet long, 35 broad, and 40 high; and water was supplied by pumps to a series of marble cisterns. When the Lords Conway became extinct, and the new proprietors did not feel inclined to make Ireland a place of residence, the glories of Portmore departed.\* The castle and other buildings were removed about 1761, and the only vestige that now remains of them is a portion of a wall. The garden and terrace are still entire under the name of "the Bowling Green;" but the decoys for wild ducks, such as are well known in Lincolnshire, and used to be common in Lancashire, have disappeared. The beautiful deer-park, said to have contained 2000 acres, is now changed to corn and

---

\*There is a local ballad on the subject. I possess a copy, which appears to be imperfect. Can any reader assist me in procuring a more correct copy?

pasture fields; and of the gigantic oaks,<sup>1</sup> that were the pride of the neighbourhood and the wonder of all who saw them, not one remains. The church, which had been removed by Lord Conway from Templecormac to Portmore, was superseded by a new one at the Restoration, near the village of Upper Ballinderry; and, though the burial ground of this is still used, it has been superseded in turn by another church about half a mile distant, erected in 1827. Thus, the single parish of Ballinderry contains four parochial burial-places, and has had as many churches, all of which were used<sup>2</sup> since the commencement of the seventeenth century. The majority of these facts are less known than the contemporary history of other portions of the two counties: they form, however, an interesting illustration of the English settlement in Ulster, and are some proof of its extent and importance.

Among the prominent men of the Plantation period was Sir Moses<sup>3</sup> Hill, said to be descended from a Norman family, of which branches are still seated in the shires of Devon and Stafford. He had served under two successive Earls of Essex, during the Rebellion of O'Neill in Elizabeth's reign; and had been governor of the castle of Oldfleet or Larne. He had also served under Lord Deputy Chichester; had represented the county of Antrim in Parliament; and when numerous offences and disorders required the *pœna præsens* of martial law, he was appointed Provost Marshall for all Ulster. One of the first portions of property which he acquired, was situated at Carrickfergus; there Captain Hill obtained a "whole share," of the Corporation land in 1600. Arthur Hill was one of the three trustees for the corporation in 1637, and in 1811 the Marquis of Downshire was one of five, (out of a large number,) whose family name still coincided with that of the original grantee. All this portion formed part of a district then thoroughly English.

To the south of Belfast, also, Sir William Brereton noticed the labours of Sir Moyses during his brief visit. "Near hereunto," (Belfast), he says, "Mr. Arthur Hill, [son and heir of Sir Moyses Hill] hath a brave plantation, which he holds by lease, which still is for thirty years to come; the land is my Lord Chichester's, and the lease was made for sixty years to Sir Moyses Hill, by the old Lord Chichester. This plantation, is said, doth yield him a £1000 per annum. Many Lancashire and Cheshire men are here planted, with some of them I conversed. They sit upon a rack-rent and pay 5s. or 6s. an acre for good ploughing land, which now is clothed with excellent corn." The clause in brackets though practically true, is literally an error; for in 1635, Peter Hill, Esq., was the son and heir of Sir Moyses, and was seated still farther inland, at a place which he called Hill-Hall.

<sup>1</sup> The great oak of Portmore was blown down about 1760. To the first branch from the ground was 25 feet, and the circumference measured 14 yards! A single branch was sold for £9; the stem for £97; and the principal part of the remainder, bought for £30, built a lighter of 40 tons' burthen. Many articles of furniture were made of it, and are held still in great estimation.

<sup>2</sup> The tradition which Heber notices as preserved by Taylor's descendants, that "he often preached to a small congregation of Loyalists, in the half ruined church of Kilulta," admits of easy explanation. Killultagh or Kilulta is a townland adjoining Templecormac, and there

is little doubt that it formerly included the latter;—at all events it was the more important place. The church of Portmore was then the existing one, originating no doubt in the chapel of the Castle; and the "half ruined" one was that of Templecormac; only the foundations, and a small part of the wall of which, are now visible. The late Bishop Mant seems to have known nothing of the church of Templecormac; and his informant, the Rev. Edward Cupples, evidently did not think of it. (*History of the Church of Ireland. Vol. I. p. 600.*)

<sup>3</sup> Always written in the ancient form Moyses.

Arthur, the younger son, who was born in 1600, and died in 1663, not only succeeded by inheritance to the lands of Peter, but in 1656, had so added to them that his estate lying in Antrim, Down, and Louth, was excelled by few in the kingdom. In 1635, Sir William Brereton, found the country "almost all woods and moorish, [from Linsley Garven] until you come to Drum-moare;" and in 1657 Arthur Hill received from the Protector and his council, for services done in Ireland, a grant of more than 3000 acres, of which 912 are described as "wood and bogg." All this was in the "territory of Kilwarlin, and county of Down," and this account of it confirms the view already given of the state of the country. Some portions of the grant are enumerated in the confirmation of 1662, as Culcavy, Cromlyne, &c.; though the fort which he had erected at his own cost, commanding an important point of communication, again embodied the family name, and gave origin to the town of Hillsborough. The manor of Hillsborough was composed of two more ancient ones, Hillsborough and Growle; the latter of which was named from what is now an obscure townland in the parish of Dro-more. So early as 1669, a village had sprung up on a distant portion of his property called Carculion or Carquillan. Its distance from Newry, and the fact that a bridge there crosses the Bann, gave to it the English name of Eight-mile-bridge; but the family name was applied a third time, and the name Hilltown has become permanent.

It is unnecessary to trace the gradual accumulation of property by grant, purchase, inheritance, or otherwise, though the owner and the situation in general, account for the nature of the population. The estate acquired by the sons of Sir Moyses Hill is less concentrated than that which was created by the Lords Conway; but, in the two points of extent and value, it will bear a comparison with any other in the two counties. The boast of the country people in Down is not far short of the truth, that "the Marquis of Downshire, can ride his horse from Newry to Belfast on his own ground." The hereditary distinctions have kept pace with the growing influence of the family, and not one has become extinct. Three distinct branches are members of the peerage, the Marquis of Downshire, Viscount Dungannon, and Baron Sandys; in the first of which titles several minor ones are merged, and one also in the second. In several distinct walks of public life, the individual members have attained deserved distinction. The first Marquis was well-known as a statesman; Lord Sandys sustained and extended the military honours of the family, during a connexion with the army of more than thirty years; and few are unacquainted with the successful exertions of the philanthropist of Gweedore.

The portion of the manor of Hillsborough which was colonised by natives of England is that adjacent to Killultagh. They spread up the valley of the Lagan, on the right as well as on the left bank, but did not establish themselves among the hills by which the valley is here bounded. The town of Hillsborough, and the whole western portion of the parish, lie within the area of the English plantation; but in the eastern portion very few established themselves, and those only by slow degrees.

Farther inland, and later in point of settlement, was Sir George Rawdon, a native of Rawdon, near Leeds in Yorkshire. His connexion with the North of Ireland may be traced to the fact that



in early life he was Secretary to the first Lord Conway, while his lordship was Secretary of State, and indeed till his death. He afterwards became more intimately related to the Conways, by marrying in the decline of life, as his second wife, the daughter of the second Lord, sister to the Earl. In 1641, Sir George was one of the most active in defending Lisburn, and the adjoining country against Sir Phelim O'Neill; and some years after, he was the Earl of Donegal's deputy, as governor of Carrickfergus, the county Antrim, and adjacent parts. In 1666 he had grants of land in Down, as well as in two other counties, under the acts of settlement; and other lands were assigned to him from time to time, in lieu of arrears of pay for services in the reign of Charles I.

In the earlier years of the Plantation of Ulster, in the anxiety to form settlements of the native Irish, grants were made to the well-disposed, in the open and least defended parts of the country. Accordingly, in 1611, a district consisting of fourteen half-towns, "in the territory of Moyra and country of Iveagh," was granted to Murtagh MacTerlagh O'Lavery. At his death it was enjoyed by his grandson Hugh, who alienated great part of it in 1639; and in the disturbances of 1641—called by the country people "the Forty-one Wars,"—all the rest was forfeited. Sir George Rawdon, having arrears of pay due, purchased this for a small sum, and introduced "conformable Protestants," viz. English soldiers, and colonists from his paternal property. The Laverys of Moira still survive, and though now a very humble people they possess some characteristics of great interest. About 1781, when Lieut. Col. Lord Rawdon was serving with great distinction in the war with our American colonies, one of them, ° a Corporal, from near "the back of the wood" on his father's estate, performed an act of great bravery, which was mentioned with high eulogium in the House of Commons.

The Moyra estate is now the property of Sir Robert Bateson, Bart, and since the commencement of the present century the history of the Rawdon family belongs to England. They have been identified with several parts of the County Down, greatly to its advantage; and the earldom of Moira, conferred in 1762, is one of the numerous peerages possessed by the Marquis of Hastings. There is a tradition among the tenantry that a small portion of the estate adjoining the church-yard was reserved, when all the rest was alienated, lest the title Earl of Moira<sup>p</sup> should pass away; and the belief is an interesting illustration of the hold which Baronies *by tenure* practically possess on the popular mind.

John Magill Esq., supposed to be a junior branch of the family of that name in Scotland, Earls of

---

° The account is not always given in the same way, but I had it in early life from an eye witness. His lordship being in a position of great difficulty wished to communicate with another detachment of British troops, separated from him by woods filled with sharpshooters. Lavery, knowing the difficulty and danger of the embassy, volunteered to carry a letter to the commanding officer; and as had been expected, he was shot at and wounded. The bullet laid open the covering of the peritonæum without injuring a vital part; but in his anxiety to conceal the contents of the letter from the

enemy, he thrust it into the wound and crawled to a hollow tree. There he was found next day by his companions, expiring from the irritation occasioned by his heroic conduct. In Boyle's Speeches it is stated that at Moira "a chaste monument records at once the glory of the deed, and the gratitude of his illustrious countryman Lord Rawdon." Can any one inform me what this is or was, and where?

<sup>p</sup> What would they say of such titles as Earl of Lisburne, Viscount Downe, or Viscount Strangford?

Oxford and Lords Magill, obtained grants of land beyond those of Sir Arthur Hill and Sir George Rawdon. They lay chiefly in the modern parishes of Dromore, Magheralin, and Tullylish; in the first of which his name is preserved in Gill-Hall, and in the last in the village of Gilford on the Bann. In private friendship, as well as in several undertakings of public importance, he was intimately associated with Alderman Hawkins of London, who was also a planter in the County Down: and by an intermarriage of their families, a common descendant, the Earl of Clanwilliam, possesses the property<sup>q</sup> acquired by both. Though Mr. Magill resided principally at Gill-Hall his property was erected into the manor of Gilford; and in its descent, the male line has become extinct three times, in the families of Magill, Johnston, and Hawkins. Mr. Johnston assumed the name and arms of Magill, and became Sir John Magill, Bart; Mr. Hawkins was also known as Robert Hawkins Magill.

The Magill property lay on both sides of the county boundary, i.e. in Armagh and Down; and in that which adjoined the rivers Bann and Lagan, it was inhabited almost exclusively by Englishmen. Those portions which adjoined the Kilwarlin Hills and the town of Dromore, were inhabited by a few straggling Scots, who increased in numbers with the natural increase of property and population. The following facts illustrate the value of land at the close of the seventeenth century. When the battle of the Boyne had restored peace to the country, there was a better field for industry; and Sir John Magill, being desirous to encourage it, sent for his tenantry, and offered to give them leases with lives renewable for ever, at the rents which they had previously paid. A very large number accepted them, at a rent of less than half a crown per acre: <sup>r</sup> and thus the Clanwilliam property is much less productive to its possessor than that of the neighbouring landlords. Baron Gilford is one of the inferior titles of the Earl of Clanwilliam.

[Though not directly connected with the subject of the present Essay, it may be interesting to some readers to know that the English colonists did not stop at the verge of this county, but pressed on across Armagh. Bankes, in speaking of Lugarn, [Lurgan,] says "This town from the similarity of its general figure, of the language, manners, and dispositions of its inhabitants, to those of the English, hath for many years acquired the name of *Little England*." Leaving the bogs of Oneiland to the right, the planters passed from Seagoe, Shankill, and Magheralin, across to the Blackwater at Killyman and Charlemont; and large numbers settled in Dungannon and the parishes immediately surrounding it. Thus, from the tides of the Channel at Carrickfergus, to the base of the Pomeroy mountains in Tyrone, across a considerable portion of four counties, and independent of smaller numbers scattered at other points, the English portion of the plantation existed in an unbroken line. The characteristics of the fathers are discernible still, in a generation farther removed than the children's children; but these it will be time enough to investigate when we have assigned the proper locality to each of the other elements of the population.]

<sup>q</sup> The townland of Tullycarne was an exception. Mr Magill bequeathed this to "his servant John Magill," with whose descendants it remained till within the last few years. Another branch of the Oxford family settled at Islandderry; it is now represented by John Magill, Esq., of Dublin.

<sup>r</sup> This took place in 1696, again in 1726, and no doubt at other times also. In 1696 one tenant accepted a lease of a quarter of a townland (about 60 Irish acres); but his wife complained bitterly that it would be impossible to procure the rent, and that he should only have accepted enough for a good garden and a cow's grass.